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NORTH CAROLINA

Farm Report

Cooperative Crop Reporting Service



NO. 172

RALEIGH, N. C.

NOVEMBER 16, 1954

CURRENT SERIAL RECORD
FEB 14 1955

HURRICANE HAZEL DAMAGES CROP

The major topic of discussion as far as North Carolina agriculture is concerned, with regard to developments during October, is the effect of Hurricane Hazel which struck a savage blow to a large part of the State on Friday, October 15. The winds of the storm struck the State about 30 miles west of Wilmington and proceeded in a generally northward direction across the State. Damaging winds were experienced over a path covering approximately 100 miles. Many thousands of trees were uprooted or snapped off by the force of the wind and thousands of tobacco barns were either demolished or badly damaged.

In addition to the severe winds in the immediate path of the hurricane, much of the mountain area also received heavy winds. These winds, however, were not of hurricane force.

The flue-cured tobacco crop had virtually been harvested and was mostly out of the barns. Considerable quantities still remained in packing sheds, but due to better construction, packing sheds were less severely damaged than were the curing barns. Therefore, losses of tobacco in farmers' hands were negligible.

Considerable quantities of peanuts

(See "HURRICANE" Page 8)

U. S. COTTON ESTIMATE RAISED

N. C. LOWERED

Cotton production from the 1954 North Carolina crop is forecast at 355,000 bales as of November 1. Such a crop would be 21 percent, or 94,000 bales, less than production last year and 30 percent, or 151,000 bales, below the 10-year average crop

(See "COTTON" Page 3)

FLUE-CURED ESTIMATE LOWERED

As of November 1, estimated 1954 flue-cured tobacco production in North Carolina was placed at 900 million pounds. Estimated production dropped about 15.5 million pounds from that of a month earlier as warehouse sales and current reports from growers indicate that the leaf was not quite as heavy in Type 11 and 13 areas as thought earlier. If the current estimate materializes, this year's crop will outweigh the 1953 crop by about 8 percent and will be about 11 percent heavier than the 1943-52 average production.

Type 11 (Old Belt and Middle Belt) production is currently set at 312,550,000 pounds -- indicating an average yield of 1,175 pounds per acre. Last year, production from the drought-stricken Type 11

(See "TOBACCO" Page 2)

PEANUT PROSPECTS UNCHANGED

Yield Expected To Be Second Highest Of Record

The North Carolina peanut crop is estimated at 261,950,000 pounds as of November 1. This is 3 percent below the 1953 crop of 270,810,000 pounds.

Current prospects indicate a yield of 1,550 pounds per acre. If realized, this yield would be the second highest of record, being exceeded only by the 1952 average yield of 1,590 pounds. Favorable weather during October enabled growers to get a large portion of the crop picked with a minimum amount of loss in threshing.

For the Nation a crop of 1,071 million pounds is expected for 1954. Such a crop will be 33 percent below last year's production of 1,588 million pounds.

TOBACCO (Continued from Page 1)

crop was only 261,870,000 pounds, while the average yield per acre was 1,015 pounds.

Type 12 production is expected to total 475,950,000 pounds this season -- a yield of 1,425 pounds per acre. This would mean the second heaviest crop of record for the Eastern Belt and the second highest yield per acre of record, both having been surpassed in 1951 when total production went to 511 million pounds and the yield per acre reached 1,435 pounds.

The revised estimate of production in Type 13 areas now places the total poundage at 111,800,000 and the average yield per acre at 1,300. A Border Belt crop this size is about 7 percent smaller than the 1953 crop but 12 percent larger than the 1943-52 average.

By the end of October the bulk of the flue-cured crop had been sold. Final sales were held in the N. C. Border Belt on October 28. Better than nine-tenths of the Eastern Belt crop had been sold by the end of the month, while, on a combined basis, about two-thirds of the Old Belt and Middle Belt crop had been marketed.

Expected production from the State's Burley crop remains at 20,520,000 pounds. Such a crop is the same size as that harvested in 1953. A yield of 1,900 pounds per acre is in view for the 1954 crop which is the highest ever recorded.

For the Nation, flue-cured production, currently estimated at 1,327,871,000 pounds, is down about 1 percent from the October 1 forecast but is still 4.4 percent above 1953 production. The U. S. burley crop is placed at 582 million pounds

STATE APPLE ESTIMATE DOWN Winds Damage Crop

First-of-the-month reports from commercial apple growers in N. C. indicated a drop of 200,000 bushels in prospective production from the estimate of October 1. Estimated 1954 production now stands at 1,900,000 bushels. Such a crop is more than twice the size of last year's 873,000 bushel crop and is better than one and a half times the 1943-52 average.

SMALL PECAN CROP

Total production of pecans in N. C. is presently set at 1,860,000 pounds. Such a crop is only about half the size of last year's heavy crop and is about a fifth smaller than the 1943-52 average. The current estimate for this season is 300,000 pounds lower than the October 1 forecast. The sharp drop in prospective production can be attributed largely to Hurricane Hazel which not only blew off large quantities of nuts but broke-off and uprooted many trees. Total production in the State this season is expected to be made up of 1,580,000 pounds of improved varieties and 280,000 pounds of wild and seedling.

U. S. production of pecans is now forecast at 96,600,000 -- 6 percent more than the forecast a month ago, but 54 percent below last year and 28 percent below average.

COTTON PICKING RATES DOWN

U. S. rates for picking 100 pounds of seed cotton averaged \$2.70 as reported by farmers up to November 1. This is 10 cents less than a year ago as rates dropped from 20 to 25 cents in most of the Eastern Cotton Belt. Rates were higher this year than a year ago in Missouri, Arkansas and Arizona, unchanged in Tennessee, Oklahoma, and Florida and lower in all other States.

AVERAGE RATES FOR PICKING 100 POUNDS OF SEED COTTON*

YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA	UNITED STATES	• DOLLARS •	
1954.....	3.15			2.70
1953.....	3.35			2.80
1952.....	3.50			3.05
1951.....	3.35			3.00
1950.....	2.85			2.65
1945.....	2.30			1.93
1940.....	.67			.62

* For 1945 and later years, averages include rates paid for snapping bolls converted to seed cotton equivalent.

N. C. SORGHUM GRAIN YIELD ABOUT SAME AS LAST YEAR

For all practical purposes Tar Heel farmers had completed the harvesting of sorghum grains as of November 1. On the basis of reports from growers, the 1954 yield is estimated at 25.0 bushels per acre. This compares with 24.0 bushels last year and the average yield of 26.5 bushels.

Primarily as a result of a sharp increase in acreage, the current sorghum grain crop is estimated at 2,150,000 bushels. This is 52 percent above the 1953 crop of 1,416,000 bushels.

COTTON (Continued From Page 1)

With the exception of the disastrous crop of 1950, when only 181,000 bales were

harvested, the 1954 crop is expected to be the smallest for the State since 1892.

Picking operations are about over -- this being one of the earliest harvests of record. Except for the brief interruption caused by Hurricane "Hazel", the 1954 harvest season has been almost ideal for picking cotton. Fortunately, most of the cotton had been gathered prior to the hurricane and for the State as a whole losses from this storm were not too serious. Yields were cut sharply in Piedmont counties by severe drought conditions, but are turning out above average in most of the Coastal producing counties.

As of November 1, the National cotton crop is forecast at 13,206,000 bales as compared with 16,465,000 bales for 1953 and 12,448,000 for the ten-year (1943-52) average crop. The current estimate for the 1954 crop is 695,000 bales above that of October 1. Detailed estimates, by States, are shown in the table below.

COTTON ESTIMATES NOVEMBER 1, 1954 WITH COMPARISONS

STATE	Acreage for Harvest 1954 <i>1/</i>	Lint Yield Per Harvested Acre			Production (Ginnings) <i>2/</i> 500-Lb. Gross Wt. Bales			Gin- nings to Nov. 1 1954
		Aver- age 1943- 52	1953	1954 Indi- cated Nov. 1	Aver- age 1943- 52	1953	1954 Indi- cated Nov. 1	
	(000)	(Pounds)			(Thousand Bales)			
N. C.	571	340	278	298	506	449	355	332
S. C.	858	312	281	274	693	690	490	480
Ga.	1,105	252	262	267	705	752	615	596
Tenn.	658	357	354	394	544	702	540	439
Ala.	1,214	286	285	287	907	963	725	721
Miss.	1,913	336	410	386	1,664	2,129	1,540	1,326
Mo.	456	368	386	453	343	449	430	349
Ark.	1,705	332	358	360	1,343	1,548	1,280	1,038
La.	689	327	407	387	585	806	555	502
Okla.	935	152	205	151	385	437	295	211
Tex.	7,624	182	233	242	3,239	4,317	3,850	2,520
N. Mex.	201	498	497	657	195	327	275	161
Ariz.	403	555	743	899	387	1,070	755	362
Calif.	882	624	632	789	905	1,768	1,450	601
Others <i>3/</i>	71	288	242	343	47	58	51	32
U. S.	19,285	272.1	324.2	329	12,448	16,465	13,206	9,670

1/ September 1 estimate. 2/ Production ginned and to be ginned. A 500-pound bale contains about 480 net pounds of lint. 3/ Virginia, Florida, Illinois, Kentucky, Kansas, and Nevada.

**NORTH CAROLINA
ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, NOVEMBER 1, 1954 WITH COMPARISONS**

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)		YIELD (IN UNITS)		PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		Indicated 1954
		Average 1943-52	Harvested 1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Indicated 1954	
Corn, All.....	Bu.	2,220	2,137	2,137	27.9	27.0	61,914	53,425
Sorghums, All Uses.....	Bu.	35	77	112	-	-	-	-
Sorghum Grain.....	Bu.	1/ 18	59	86	1/26.5	24.0	25.0	2,150
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	416	400	316	16.7	20.5	6,915	6,794
Oats.....	Bu.	363	418	481	29.4	38.5	10,749	18,518
Barley.....	Bu.	38	44	53	27.2	37.5	1,035	1,855
Rye.....	Bu.	24	16	19	12.4	14.5	14.0	266
Tobacco: Type 11.....	Lbs.	269.2	258.0	266.0	1,104	1,015	297,774	312,550
Type 12.....	Lbs.	337.2	331.0	334.0	1,219	1,360	411,216	475,950
Type 13.....	Lbs.	83.2	85.0	86.0	1,190	1,415	1,300	99,429
All Flue-cured.....	Lbs.	689.6	674.0	686.0	1,171	1,235	1,312	120,275
Type 31, Burley.....	Lbs.	10.9	11.4	10.8	1,540	1,800	1,900	808,419
Cotton.....	Lbs.	718	782	571	340	278	298	2/ 449
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes -	Bu.	400	397	413	-	-	-	2/ 355
Soybeans, For Beans.....	Bu.	254	263	289	13.8	14.5	16.0	-
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes -	Bu.	286	184	175	-	-	-	3,559
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed..	Lbs.	269	177	169	1,139	1,530	1,550	300,811
Irish Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	69	46	40	134	133	145	9,095
Sweet Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	56	45	40	106	105	90	5,983
Hay: All.....	Tons	1,270	1,164	1,224	1.01	.98	1,287	1,145
Clover & Timothy 4/.....	Tons	97	98	92	1.14	1.10	1.10	1,205
Alfalfa.....	Tons	36	70	78	2.10	2.00	.76	101
Lespedeza.....	Tons	516	488	532	1.07	.85	.85	156
Pasture, Condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	.80	452
Peaches, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	47
Apples, Commercial 5/.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,150
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	1,900
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	125
Pecans: All.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,305
Wild or Seedling.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,233
Improved.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,072

4

Short-time average.	2/	500 lb. gross weight bales.	3/ Includes 105,000 bushels commercial early potatoes not marketed.
4/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay.	5/ Estimates of the commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in		

UNITED STATES
ESTIMATED ACREAGE, YIELD AND PRODUCTION OF CROPS, NOVEMBER 1, 1954 WITH COMPARISONS

CROPS	UNIT	ACREAGE (IN THOUSANDS)		YIELD (IN UNITS)		PRODUCTION (IN THOUSANDS)		Indicated 1954	
		Average 1943-52	Harvested 1953	Indicated 1954	Average 1943-52	1953	Average 1943-52	1953	
Corn, All.....	Bu.	85,820	80,279	80,164	35.7	39.6	3,057,464	3,176,615	2,938,713
Sorghums, All Uses.....	-	13,681	12,397	18,489	-	-	-	-	-
Sorghum Grain.....	Bu.	7,254	6,137	8,938	18.2	17.8	134,600	109,022	163,354
Wheat, Winter.....	Bu.	46,716	46,681	38,090	17.7	18.8	832,977	877,511	775,900
Wheat, All.....	Bu.	66,025	67,608	53,726	17.0	17.3	1,121,506	1,168,536	959,258
Oats.....	Bu.	39,526	39,358	41,980	33.3	30.9	1,316,359	1,216,416	1,506,213
Barley.....	Bu.	10,960	8,534	12,885	25.3	28.2	274,955	241,015	367,092
Rye.....	Bu.	1,867	1,382	1,706	11.9	13.0	22,149	17,998	23,293
Tobacco: Flue-cured.....	Lbs.	1,028.8	1,021.8	1,039.0	1,164	1,245	1,199,981	1,272,200	1,327,871
	Lbs.	1,452.5	1,422.7	1,396.3	1,234	1,278	558,923	569,868	581,710
All Types.....	Lbs.	1,716.8	1,634.2	1,631.8	1,183	1,259	2,033,432	2,057,221	2,156,034
Cotton.....	Lbs.	22,428	25,244	19,285	272.1	324.2	1/ 12,448	1/ 16,465	1/ 13,206
Soybeans, Alone All Purposes.....	-	13,523	16,085	18,825	-	-	-	-	-
Soybeans, For Beans.....	Bu.	11,559	14,366	17,329	19.9	18.3	230,649	262,341	337,990
Peanuts, Alone All Purposes.....	-	3,424	1,882	1,914	-	-	-	-	-
Peanuts, Picked & Threshed.....	Lbs.	2,762	1,514	1,513	742	1,031	716	1,979,865	1,588,415
Irish Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	2,138.3	1,508.3	1,380.9	202.3	247.8	251.2	409,027	373,711
Sweet Potatoes, All.....	Bu.	547.1	349.7	345.5	92.9	97.2	84.8	50,637	33,974
Hay: All.....	Tons	74,629	73,918	75,984	1.37	1.42	1.39	101,959	105,300
Alfalfa.....	Tons	16,196	20,269	22,716	2.21	2.19	2.14	35,759	44,374
Clover & Timothy 2/	Tons	22,208	20,761	19,717	1.41	1.44	1.42	31,236	29,851
Lespedeza.....	Tons	6,521	4,653	5,174	1.05	.89	.71	6,851	4,129
Pasture, Condition.....	%	-	-	-	-	-	.77	.56	.63
Peaches, All 3/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	66,596	64,473
Apples, Commercial 2/ 4/	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	105,802	92,877
Pears, All.....	Bu.	-	-	-	-	-	-	30,466	29,081
Grapes, All.....	Tons	-	-	-	-	-	-	2,951	2,696
Pecans: All.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	133,575	211,660
Wild or Seedling.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	73,098	108,755
Improved.....	Lbs.	-	-	-	-	-	-	60,477	102,905

1/ 500 Lb. gross weight bales. 2/ Excludes sweetclover and lespedeza hay. 3/ Production includes some quantities unharvested on account of economic conditions. 4/ Estimates of commercial crop refer to the total production of apples in the commercial areas of each state.

N. C. NOVEMBER CORN ESTIMATE SAME AS OCTOBER

Corn production prospects in North Carolina as of November 1, were unchanged from October. Production is currently estimated at 53,425,000 bushels with an average yield per acre of 25.0 bushels. Production in 1953 totaled 57,699,000 bushels with an average yield per acre of 27.0 bushels.

Hurricane "Hazel" twisted and flattened much of the crop in Coastal Plains counties. This will result in hand picking of the crop or a combination of machine and hand picking. Approximately half of the crop had been harvested as of November 1.

The U. S. corn crop is estimated at 2,938,713,000 bushels as of November 1. This compares with the 1953 crop of 3,176,615,000 bushels.

EGG PRODUCTION SOARS

Laying flocks in N. C. laid an estimated 111 million eggs during October -- the highest October production of record. Production during the month was seasonally higher than September by 2 million eggs and was 11 million higher than production during October 1953. The number of layers on hand during the month was estimated at 8,946,000, while the average rate of lay per bird was 12.5 eggs. Both the number of layers and the rate of lay were the highest of record for the month.

U. S. farm flocks laid almost 5 billion eggs in October, a record high production for the month.

FEWER WORKERS

The number of persons at work on U. S. farms during the week of October 24-30, dropped about a million and a quarter from a month earlier to a total of 9,973,000. Of this number, 7,484,000 were family workers and 2,489,000 were hired workers. The decrease was greater than usual for each type of workers and was partly due to a more advanced cotton harvest. There were 4 percent fewer family workers than a year earlier and 3 percent fewer hired workers. Weather over the Nation during the survey week was only partly favorable for farm work.

N. C. SWEETPOTATO CROP NEAR RECORD LOW

Prospects are for a North Carolina sweetpotato crop of 3,600,000 bushels. This compares with the record low crop of 3,478,000 bushels in 1951 and is the second smallest production since 1871. Production from 1943 through 1952 averaged 5,983,000 bushels. The currently estimated yield per acre of 90 bushels compares with 105 bushels last year and the 1943-52 average of 106 bushels per acre.

U. S. sweetpotato production estimated at 29,285,000 bushels is 14.0 percent below the 1953 crop of 33,974,000 bushels.

N. C. SOYBEAN PRODUCTION

21.0 PERCENT ABOVE LAST YEAR

Reports from growers, as of November 1, indicate a Tar Heel soybean crop of 4,624,000 bushels. This is 21.0 percent above the 1953 crop of 3,814,000 bushels.

November 1 prospects point to a yield per acre of 16.0 bushels. This compares with the 1953 yield of 14.5 bushels and the 1943-52 yield of 13.8 bushels. Approximately 30.0 percent of the crop had been harvested as of November 1.

Total U. S. soybean production estimated at 337,990,000 bushels is 29.0 percent above the 1953 crop of 262,341,000 bushels.

STATE AND NATIONAL MILK PRODUCTION AT RECORD LEVEL

Milk production on farms in North Carolina during October was estimated at 152 million pounds. This was the highest October production of record, comparing with 141 million pounds milked during the month in 1953 and with the 1943-52 October average of 126 million pounds.

National output for October, estimated at 9.0 billion pounds, was the highest for the month in a quarter century of records -- 1 percent above last year's previous high and 5 percent above the 1943-52 average for the month.

WEATHER SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER, 1954

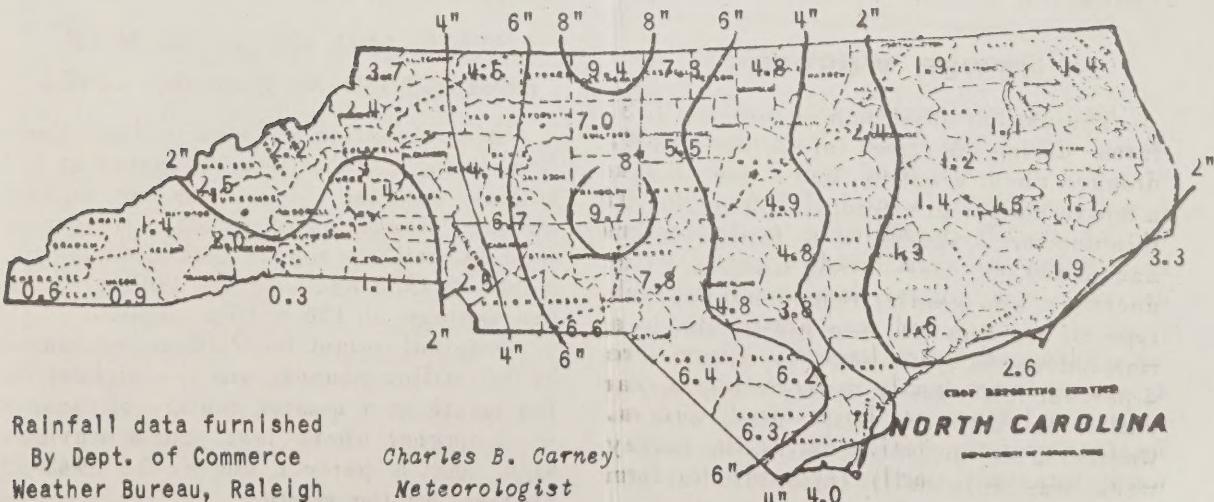
October weather was full of extremes, but Hurricane Hazel so overshadows the rest of them that they seem unimportant. This severe tropical storm, whose center plowed into the southern coast and northward across the Western Coastal Plain on the 15th of the month, caused greater devastation to the State than any other storm in weather history. The greatest local damage was along the southern coast, where the wind and the waves combined to completely annihilate all signs of civilization on some beaches; it was inland, however, that the greatest losses to agriculture occurred, in the form of barns and homes destroyed and damaged, trees by the millions uprooted, and mature crops hopelessly blown about in the fields. Only the fact that most crops were already harvested saved the State's farmers from crippling losses.

The first week in October, 1954, was probably the hottest that the same calendar week has been in the present century. Every afternoon brought readings up into the nineties throughout all of the State except the mountains and the immediate beaches, while many places reported high readings within the period of 100 degrees or higher. There was a brief cool spell at the end of the first week, then hot weather lasting nearly another week; then

a week of cool weather, followed by several warm days, and finally, a cool turn at the end of the month. Average temperatures over the month were about two degrees above long-term averages for October. Most of the excess heat came in the daytime, as fair weather accompanied the hot, and nights cooled off rapidly. Most of the cool weather of the month came immediately following the passage of Hurricane Hazel.

Without the torrential rains that came with Hurricane Hazel, October, 1954, would have been almost as dry as October, 1953, which set new records at most places in North Carolina. Some few places outside the range of the hurricane rains actually had less rain this October than last. The heaviest rains with the storm fell over the central Piedmont, where amounts up to more than nine inches fell in less than 24 hours. Amounts tapered off gradually westward to the mountains and eastward to the path of the storm center; then east of the center path and west of the mountain peaks there was a sharp drop-off. Some places in eastern North Carolina, even on the wind-and-wave battered coast, had less than an inch of rain during the storm. Other showers during the first and last weeks in October were light everywhere.

INCHES OF RAINFALL OCTOBER, 1954



FARM REPORT

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HURRICANE (Continued from Page 1)

were stacked in the fields and were badly blown in some instances. Growers appear to have salvaged most of these peanuts. The corn crop had already been rather badly blown by Hurricane Carroll, and unharvested fields were further tangled when Hazel struck.

Some limited amount of corn was undoubtedly lost through spoilage, but these losses do not appear to have been severe. Picking of corn has been active since the hurricane, and in many instances crews are following the pickers to salvage grain not harvested through the mechanical process.

Damage to soybeans does not appear to have been heavy, although there was undoubtedly some loss of this crop.

Pecan trees in the path of the hurricane were rather severely damaged and many of the nuts were blown off the trees. Since they were still not mature, loss of

pecans was fairly heavy. Reports from the mountain areas indicate that the winds in those areas blew off quite a few apples from the trees. This resulted in some loss of fruit and undoubtedly some loss of quality.

It should be stated that in the areas where the effect of the storm was most severe, rainfall was comparatively light and preceded the heavy winds. Heaviest precipitation was received in the Piedmont counties, with very small quantities falling in the Eastern counties and much of the Mountain area.

Due to the long and extended drought, seeding of small grains for winter pasture and for harvest has been very seriously retarded. Thanks to rains accompanying Hazel and to other showers, which have been adequate to soften soils over much of the State, breaking of land and seeding of grains were quite active during the last week of October and the first week of November. We still are behind schedule, however.